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ABSTRACT

This book contains 10 papers on solutions and barriers to improving the access of Hispanic American students to higher education. Following an introductory essay on: "Advances in Assessment and the Potential for Increasing the Number of Hispanics in Higher Education" (G. D. Keller), the papers are organized into four parts. Papers in part I address Hispanic American access factors. They are: (1) "Cultural and Linguistic Influences on Latino Testing" (J. P. Mestre and J. M. Royer); (2) "Diagnostic Testing of Reasoning Skills" (R. P. Duran); and (3) "Assessing Heuristic Knowledge To Enhance College Students' Success" (R. V. Padilla). The following papers in part II review advances in test construction on behalf of Hispanic Americans: (4) "Time as a Factor in the Cognitive Test Performance of Latino College Student" (M. M. Llabre); (5) "Factors Related to Differential Item Functioning for Hispanic Examinees on the Scholastic Aptitude Test" (A. P. Schmitt and N. J. Dorans); and (6) "Equating the Scores of the College Board 'Prueba de Aptitud Academica' and the College Board 'Scholastic Aptitude Test'" (W. H. Angoff and L. L. Cook). Papers in part III explore testing and Hispanic American access to the teacher profession. They are: (7) "Competency Testing and Latino Student Access to the Teaching Profession: An Overview of Issues" (R. R. Valencia and S. Aburto); and (8) "Research Directions and Practical Strategies in Teacher Testing and Assessment: Implications for Improving Latino Access to Teaching" (R. R. Valencia and S. Aburto). Part IV deals with "TestSkills," a program that addresses the problems of understanding and motivating many Hispanic American students approaching college. Papers are: (9) "The Development of 'TestSkills': A Test Familiarization Kit on the PSAT/NMSQT for Hispanic Students" (L. Gaire); and (10) "A Preliminary Evaluation of 'TestSkills': A Kit To Prepare Hispanic Students for the PSAT/NMSQT" (M. Pennock-Roman, D. E. Powers, and M. Perez). Included are copies of questionnaires used in the study of "TestSkills," on the contributors, and over 500 references. (JB)